

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

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The Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.

"It's five-Stigma, at 2"

The finding ranks among the greatest of astrophysics discoveries!

Assistant professor *Chao-Lin Kuo* with *Stanford* has evidence that supports *Physicist Linde's "Cosmic Inflation"* hypothesis about the 30-year old *Big Bang Theory* of why we have all this stuff in the Universe. Gravity waves in the Universe's oldest light show lend support that the destruction of the second Death Star caused the early Universe to expand to 100 trillion times its size in less than a second, almost 14 billion years ago, leaving behind ripples in the cosmos of space. After about 380,000 years the space particles cooled into stars and galaxies. Planets formed from orbiting stars' dust and gas, while the Universe continues to spread out. In fact the Universe's expansion is accelerating.

Astronomers using a telescope at the SOUTH POLE have been scanning the sky looking for a specific pattern in light waves within the faint microwave glow left over from the *Big Bang*. Gravitational waves known as ripples in space and time are causative of the lightwave pattern.

Since it is the standard caveat in science that results be cautiously confirmed by other observations, therefore researchers from the *Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics*, the *University of Minnesota*, the *California Institute of Technology*, and *NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory* are collaborating with *Stanford University* to submit the results to a scientific journal this week, according to *John Kovac* of *Harvard*. The new work is the first detection of such waves or tremors of the *Big Bang* that birthed our Universe.

(Sources: March 18, 2014, YAHOO NEWS, "*See the moment a physicist learns his life's work on the Big Bang theory is valid, pops open champagne*" by Mike Krunboltz; March 18, 2014, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, *Nation*, *Science*, "*Boom after Big Bang propelled universe*" by the Associated press; March 18, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*You can see back to the beginning*" by Malcolm Ritter, The Associated Press)

The Ecozoic Era Commences

In order to rejuvenate the withering EARTH, Man is called to evolve to a higher consciousness. Climate change makes it paramount to enter the ECOZOIC ERA and this requires a major shift in human values. Man is entering a new phase as part of the greater galactic wholeness of the Universe's biologic community. We are the awakening generation. The decisions we make influence thousands of future generations. Let's look forward to spring and brighter days with new beginnings that inspire joy.

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OREGON is the Crucible

SWITZERLAND produces the world's best insulin products. THE SWISS banned SYNGENTA AG's GMO/GE biological pesticide sugar beet crops from their own land. The SWISS people don't want sugar diabetes. It's time to wake up because AMERICA's soil has been invaded by crops banned and restricted in 66 other countries.

The eyes of the world are upon *Jackson County* voters to stand firm and tell SYNGENTA AG to go back into the nothingness from which they came, because their GMO/GE crops were actually banned and ousted in their own country of GERMANY and SWITZERLAND.

The thing to remember is that the new SYNGENTA AG kids on the block are NOT really "*Good Neighbor Farmers*" as they would like you to believe. Their *Bad Neighbor Farming* practices are wresting local control of local land use away from *Our Family Farms*. It is an agricultural mutiny underfoot.

The media touts enforcement cost hypothetical hype because they don't want you to know that the multibillionaire agrochemical cartel can easily afford to pull their monoculture GMO canola, corn, soya bean, and sugar beets up and hightail it out of *Jackson County* at their expense, not yours. Their strategy is to divide and conquer voters by confusing the issues.

The guiding principle to keep in mind is that the UNITED NATIONS *General Assembly* has designated 2014 as the "*Year of the Family Farmer*" as a way to highlight the 85% of the world's farmers who farm on a small scale, as well as their roles in community development, food security, food sovereignty, and sustainable agriculture. The real question is what it will cost your local communities in the end run if you don't put precautionary safeguards in place locally to safeguard against Big Ag's agricultural injustices in 27 counties.

The GMO crops that are genetically engineered are a public safety issue of global prime concern as evidenced by the fact that 66 nations have bans and restrictions already in place to label and limit these unnatural biological pesticide GMO's. Top soil is precious and must be protected from monocrop depletion.

Already in the *United States of AMERICA*, three counties in CALIFORNIA and two in HAWAII have taken a stand in saying "Yes, Yes now, always" to a banning completely, or placing a moratorium ban on anymore GMO/GE agrochemical invasion of AMERICA's soil. That's right, five U.S. counties have passed measures to ban, limit, or regulate GMO/GE crops. *Jackson County*, OREGON, will plausibly become the sixth county to draw a line and say, "*Enough*" and "*Whoa*" by reigning in the invaders.

That's why the deep-pocketed agrochemical lobby tries to divide and conquer voters by confusing the issues to media coverage reporters. I could tell you that Big Ag uses a lot of marketing distortion and hypothetical hype, but people can, you know, keep the media honest by saying YES to passage of the *Family Farm Measure 15-119* this May.

(Source: Issue 8 Spring 2014, FOR A BETTER WORLD, Issues and Challenges for a Just Economy, News in Brief, "*2014 Named Year of the Family Farmer*"; www.fairworldproject.org)

SYNGENTA AG's Cover Up About ATRAZINE

SYNGENTA AG's lack of transparency is well established. Can you really enjoy SYNGENTA AG crops in *Jackson County*, once you learn that a scientist who actually worked for SYNGENTA AG found out that ATRAZINE disrupts the Endocrine system of frogs. SYNGENTA AG suppressed the findings that ATRAZINE turns male frogs into females.

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What about human development. Are developing human fetuses just like frogs waiting to be kissed by SYNGENTA AG, or not. Just suppose gender confusion were traced to ATRAZINE. Was Shakespeare ahead of his time in positing, "To be, or not to be, that is the question. " Eventually dirty laundry has to get washed. If you go to <http://bit.ly/1fc1LnI> you may feel bothered that the chemical herbicide ATRAZINE is banned by the EUROPEAN UNION (EU), but permitted in AMERICA.

(Source: March 7, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "Syngenta Suppressing Science"; and <http://bit.ly/1fc1LnI>)

Drone Spraying of Pesticides

A trade group called the *Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International* has eroded AMERICA's *Federal Aviation Authority* (FAA). Flying robots already are starting to change the way business is done in AUSTRALIA, to JAPAN, to the UNITED KINGDOM.

The FAA had an effective ban against commercial use of drone aircraft in AMERICA's mainland, but manufacturing corporations commercialized drones abroad, undermining the FAA's solid stance. The FAA waived because of learning that, in JAPAN, drones have been sold to rice farmers for 20-years. Apparently 2,400 unmanned drone aircraft are spraying pesticides and fertilizers on JAPAN's rice fields, and there are 100 drones farming pine trees, soya beans, and wheat in SOUTH KOREA.

The FAA wants to expedite YAMAHA CORPORATION's approval to begin commercial use of Yamaha RMAX drones for agricultural use in AMERICA's farmland airspace. Unmanned flying robots provide alternatives to human workers and the job can be finished for less cost. Agricultural drones will be released into AMERICA's airspace this very year.

Worldwide sales of civilian and military drones are expected to reach \$89 billion this decade, according to the *Teal Group*, an aerospace research company in *Fairfax*, VIRGINIA. The *Air Line Pilots Association* warns that commercial drone users may collide with helicopters or small recreational planes at low altitudes. Airspace restrictions are vital because AMERICA has far more air traffic than other nations.

(Sources: March 7, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "FAA Explores Limited Commerical Drone Use" by Jack Nicas and Andy Pasztor; March 11, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "From Farms to Films, Drones Find Commercial Uses" by Jack Nicas ; March 17, THE OREGONIAN, "Commercial drones fly, FAA lags")

What Can You Do, that Brilliant Machines Can't

Ponder this: A computer can calculate a zillion options, move by move. Human calculations won't be able to compete with brilliant machines that can collect data information that is nearly infinite. But Man's strategic guidance may be greater than the tactical acuity of the coming robotic machine partners.

How will Man's empathetically sensitive human heart's curiosity, drive, and enthusiasm be content in a system where Man provides an overall sense of conceptual direction, and procedural architects filtering what's essential and relevant for obedience to a single goal.

(Source: February 4, 2014, NEW YORK TIMES, "What Machines Can't Do" by David Brooks)

Synthetic Biology Food From a Test Tube

There seems to be human experimentation upon the U.S. population. *Synthetic Biology* sets another dangerous human experimentation precedent, in addition to GMO/GE crops. Using the American people as petri dishes may trace back to *Project Paperclip*, or not. The latest nondisclosure is that of entirely new organisms that do NOT otherwise occur in NATURE, being designed in laboratories by computers and chemicals. It's called *Synthetic Biology*.

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Dozens of *Synthetic Biology* flavors and food additives shall be put into products on your grocery store shelves this year. And there's no way to beware of *Synthetic Biology* additives and flavors since packaging will just say *Saffron*, *Stevia*, *Vanilla*, etc. The *Friends of the Earth* group warns you that these unidentified synthetic organisms being falsely labeled "*Natural*" may have an adverse effect on ecosystems and human health. Lab chemicals are a crappy substitute for real food.

(Source: March 7, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, Earthtalk, "Synthetic biology: Concerns?" by Roddy Sheer and Doug Moss; www.emagazine.com ; www.synberc.org; www.foe.org; www.evolva.com)

Something is Fishy in OREGON

The coastal *Florence Salmon and Trout "Enhancement" Program's* 10,000 dead Coho salmon hatchery eggs that died in their trays. Nearby *Munsel Creek* also had dead fish and dead frogs. Isn't it curious that the problem is NOT being investigated by the fishy state of OREGON.

(Source: March 6, 2014, THE OREGONIAN, Northwest "Contamination kills salmon" by the Associated Press)

Real Chemical Risks

EUROMONITOR INTERNATIONAL estimates the Cosmetics Industry's sales this year in AMERICA will be about \$71 billion. At issue is the safety of a range of beauty and personal care products including deodorants, hair dyes, mascara, shampoo, skin creams.

The FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) has regulatory authority over food, drugs, and medical devices and wants to be able to issue conclusions about the safety of ingredients in cosmetics, but the cosmetic industry is fighting against regulation.

According to the FDA the Cosmetic Industry's proposal would declare a wide range of potentially harmful chemicals "safe" for use in cosmetics without a credible scientific basis and require the FDA to declare others safe even if known to pose real and substantial risks to consumers.

(Source: March 7, WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Cosmetics Industry Takes Heat From FDA" by Thomas Burton)

The Pacific Ocean is Quaking

Shifting Teutonic plates jolt surrounding communities. On March 9, there was a major 6.8 magnitude earthquake 100 miles south of the OREGON state line. The epicenter was in the PACIFIC OCEAN, at a depth of 10 miles under the seabed and 50 miles offshore from *Arcata* and *Eureka*, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. It shook, rattled, and roared *Humboldt County*, according to the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY's (USGS) *Earthquake Science Center* in *Menlo Park*, CALIFORNIA.

On March 11, the USGS reported a moderate 5.1 earthquake PACIFIC OCEAN with an epicenter in the PACIFIC OCEAN, at a shallow depth of 6 miles under the seabed and 250 miles offshore from *Coos Bay*, OREGON.

The OREGON coast is ill-prepared should there be a mega earthquake rupture of the CASCADIA fault in the PACIFIC OCEAN offshore from a *Portland*, a heavily populated city of seven bridged rivers running through it.

On March 17, a pre-dawn magnitude 4.4 earthquake jolted *Los Angeles*, CALIFORNIA. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the epicenter was two-miles from *Encino* and 15 miles northwest of the downtown civic center, at a depth of 5 miles.

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Seismologist *Egill Hauksson* informs that this particular earthquake was unusual because it is the first and only one so far that has ever occurred within the *Santa Monica Mountain* range, since the recording of earthquakes began.

Past earthquakes in the L.A. basin area have clustered either to the north or south of the coastal *Santa Monica Range* of very rigid rock formation, hundreds of millions of years old.

(Sources: March 11, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE "Huge offshore quake cause little damage" by the Associated Press; March 12, MAIL TRIBUNE, "Earthquake reported Tuesday off the coast of Coos Bay"; March 18, 2014 SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, "Nation, New of the Day, "Earthquake"; www.SFChronicle.com; and www.SFGate.com; March 18, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "4.4 quake shakes most of L.A. basin")

Still Aghast at Fukushima

Someone once said, "If you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem." That's certainly true when it comes to nuclear radiation pollution of planet EARTH. Some things should never be invented. Look at the predicament the air, water, and soil are in, because FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI remains an ongoing nuclear calamity. No other energy on EARTH is as precarious as nuclear.

It takes massive amounts of water to cool the melted cores at three of the six reactors. The radioactive water that has accumulated at the plant is the biggest problem at FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI. Contaminated water from leaking storage tanks is seeping through the ground into the PACIFIC OCEAN. That is the most pressing issue according to the *Tokyo Electric Power Company's* (TEPCO) Plant Manager, *Akira Ono*.

TEPCO developed a set of water treatment units to remove all radioactive elements but *Tritium*, and another set is being built. Radioactive *Tritium* can't be removed for safer storage of the water, and storage capacity runs out sometime next year.

At FUKUSHIMA, it only takes 60 minutes to blow through a five-year dose of radiation, even if a worker is wearing a protective outfit. That's why robots must take a wider role with the *Tokyo Electric Power Company* (TEPCO) plant.

The CHIBA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY's *Future Robotic Technology Center* developed several high tech corded robots to work at the *Fukushima* site, including the \$50 million *Sakura II*. In order to avoid wireless-service disruption, optical-fiber cable cords connect the robots with robotic operator controllers who play a pivotal decommissioning role. Robots are sensitive to radiation exposure and must wear radiation monitors.

Four months ago a robot went into the reactor and produced a three-dimensional map of conditions inside, and another robot confirmed that water was leaking. Before there can be an attempted removal of the nuclear reactors' fuel material the robots must pinpoint and plug the leaks, because enough water must remain inside the reactor to keep the fuel cool and prevent radiation from getting out to the atmosphere.

MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD's *Nuclear Energy Systems Division* develops robots to work in nuclear plants. Most are small with two or four legs or treads, depending on whether areas are filled with concrete rubble and metal or if there are up and down stairs to be climbed. One is a snakelike device that cleans reactor floors with water jets and a brush head. Another can cut metal, move rubble and vacuum up radioactive dust.

Each robot is designed to do a different role. More than a dozen kinds of robots have already been used at *Fukushima* to clean up rubble, sweep floors, and shoot videos. HITACHI LTD is developing insect-like robots with the ability to crawl into narrow spaces, such as between pipes to help spot leaks. A tiny swimming robot checks the status of leaks in details. Another swimming robot seals leaks.

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Robots cost millions of dollars each, and are crucial in the cleanup of the TEPCO plant. This year the government earmarked \$854 million for technological development for FUKUSHIMA. Remote-controlled devices spare humans the cleanup of the stricken nuclear plant, but if the robots cannot stop the leaks, then a completely new method of fuel removal must be found.

The capacity for storage is approaching, and TEPCO can't contain the leakage. A 1.2 mile multibillion-dollar experimental *underground ice wall* around the four damaged reactor units is being built for use next year, but **there must be a backup plan** to an ice wall of that untested magnitude

Former U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman Dale Klein is heading a group of outside advisers to the Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) reform. His assessment is that it is *public policy* that needs to be developed, not science, to solve the FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI problem. 1,200 industrial tanks have accumulated 436,000 tons of contaminated water. Storing the massive amounts of radioactive water in tanks is unsustainable, and Klein claims Tritium can be safe in a controlled release, so the storage tank water should be released into the PACIFIC OCEAN.

It's been three years since the mega earthquake and tsunami hit the FUKUSHIMA Province, killing 16,000 with 2,500 still missing. The Japanese government claims 121 suicides in JAPAN are believed to be directly or indirectly related to the 2011 devastation.

In *Rikuzentakata*, the deadly tsunami killed a tithe of the coastal city's townspeople, and 20,000 still live in temporary prefab containers. Reconstruction includes \$250,000 for hiring mental health counselors because of the strain on residents. A huge rebuilding project is underway to raise the elevation of coastal districts. *Rikuzentakata* 740 acres of coastal city must be raised by 39 feet in elevation.

(Sources: March 7, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Robots Go Boldly Into a Radiation Hot Spot" by Mari Iwata, TOKYO; March 10, 2014, WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Tsunami Takes Mental Toll on Japan Town" by Toro Sekiguchi, RIKUZENTAKATA, Japan; March 11, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "Radioactive water slows Japan cleanup" by Mari Yamaguchi, the Associated Press, OKUMA, Japan)

The Eyes of the World are on Nuclear Abolition

"I know not what weapons will be used to fight World War III, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

--Albert Einstein

AEROSPACE Solar Drones

TITAN AEROSPACE atmospheric solar drones are solar-powered and can run for up to five years without landing. *Tech Crunch* reported, and CNBC has confirmed, that FACEBOOK has a deal with TITAN's solar atmospheric satellites that fly above FAA-regulated space, and the price tag is \$60 million. In order for the developing two-thirds of the world to sign up for FACEBOOK, <http://www.internet.org> connectivity needs to be brought to them. FACEBOOK already purchased WhatsApp, which is popular in developing countries, for \$19 billion.

(Source: March 5, 2014, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE and <http://www.SFGate.com>, "Facebook talks with drone firm")

Ashland, OREGON Solar Energy Talks

True South Solar is hosting two free workshops on how to tap into millions of dollars in federal grants through the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE's *Rural Energy for America* program. The workshop will be held at 5:30 p.m., on March 19, at the *Ashland Springs Hotel*, 212 East Main Street in Ashland, OREGON. It will be led by U.S.D.A. officials, *True South Solar*, and *Resource Consultants*, a grant writing organization. For more information, visit www.truesouthsolar.net/USDA.

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The SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY's *United Nations Club* and ASSOU are sponsoring a solar energy presentation led by *Paul Smith*, on April 6, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in the STUDENT UNION's *Rogue River Room*, on the SOU campus in *Ashland, OREGON*. It's time to explore going off the grid by making solar more efficient at night or during the winter.

(Sources: March 18, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Workshops on solar grants set in Ashland, Grants Pass*"; www.truesouthsolar.net/USDA; Kathleen Gamer with the *United Nations Club SOU* and ASSOU; <http://www.worldviewopinion.net>; and www.facebook.com/paul.smithAmericansupersolar)

Rest and Relaxation

And if you want to vacation at Maui's premier top rated private spa, the AROMATHERAPY FOUNDATION OF MAUI in *Olind, HAWAII*, get a little R & R while learning about essential oils and their vapor distillation. For more information, visit www.aromamaui.org.

If you have a deeper commitment to become an herb grower of the future, *HERB PHARM BOTANICAL SANCTUARY* offers a nine-week hands-on experience in the cultivation and use of medicinal plants grown on more than 83 beautiful acres in the *Siskiyou Mountains* in *Williams, OREGON*.

You might enjoy combining your next vacation with classroom, field, and laboratory instruction, plant identification walks, and wildcrafting. Herb Farm's internship guests share dormitory style housing in a fully equipped modern facility with optional camping space on the farm, and are responsible for their own food and transportation, must commit to respecting the healing environment, and join the farm's field and landscape crews for approximately 32 hours per week while attending classes in the evenings, on Fridays and some weekends. To enroll in the nine-week HERBACULTURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, visit www.herb-pharm.com.

Pop Quiz

How is Climate Change expected to affect your region?

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